

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of assaying a sample of blood or blood components for the presence of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D comprising an immunoassay comprising:

(a) lowering the pH of the sample to 5.5 or less to dissociate the 25-hydroxy-vitamin D from vitamin D binding proteins;

(b) contacting the sample with an antibody specific for 25-hydroxy-vitamin D; and

(c) determining the concentration of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D in the sample by determining the amount of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D that is bound by the antibody specific for 25-hydroxy-vitamin D,

wherein the vitamin D binding proteins are not removed from the sample before contacting the sample with ~~an~~ the antibody specific for 25-hydroxy-vitamin D.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 5 or less.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 4.5 or less.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 4 or less.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 3 or less.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to be in the range of from 2 to 5.5.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to be in the range of from 4.0 to 4.5.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 5.5 or less by adding a buffer having a pH of less than 5.5.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the buffer is a citrate, citrate phosphate, or acetate buffer.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sample of blood or blood components is serum or plasma.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein no precipitate is formed.

13. (Previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein a vitamin D tracer is used in the immunoassay.

Amendment and Response  
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14. (Original) A method of claim 13, wherein the vitamin D tracer is ABEI conjugated to 25-hydroxy-vitamin D.

Claims 15 to 19 (Canceled).